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MARCOS DIAZ LANZ

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ON 10-7-94 JPK

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Teletype

URGENT 10-25-59 10:46 AM EST RLB

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SAC MIAMI

251030

Classified by SP8 Bja/mc
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ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES; IS-CUBA. RE TELEPHONE CALLS OCTOBER 24 FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BELMONT OF BUREAU AND FROM SAC TEAGUE TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BELMONT. ON EVENING OCTOBER 24 FOLLOWING PERSONS INTERVIEWED AT 120 SW 71 AVENUE MIAMI, PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ, FORMER CHIEF OF CUBAN AIR FORCE (FAR); HIS BROTHER MARCOS DIAZ LANZ FORMER INSPECTOR GENERAL AND ASSISTANT TO PEDRO IN FAR; RICARDO LORIE VALLS, FORMER JULY 26 MOVEMENT UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT LEADER IN MIAMI; FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS, AKA FRANK FLORINI, US CITIZEN FORMER UNDERGROUND MEMBER JULY 26 MOVEMENT IN MIAMI; AND CARLOS ECHOGUYEN, FORMER MEMBER FAR AND CLOSE ASSOCIATE ABOVE PERSONS. AT OUTSET OF INTERVIEWS ALL WERE INFORMED OF THEIR RIGHTS. PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ CONFIRMED INFORMATION FURNISHED BY HIM OCTOBER 22 LAST. HE FURNISHED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. LEAFLET DROPPING FLIGHT OF OCTOBER 21 LAST WAS JOINT ENTERPRISE OF ABOVE PERSONS UNDER LEADERSHIP PEDRO DIAZ ON BEHALF OF 26 OF JULY ANTI COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, BUT NOT WITH SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF MOVEMENT. PEDRO DIAZ PLANNED INCIDENT. RECEIPT OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ARREST BY FIDEL CASTRO OF MAJOR HUBERTO MATOS CAUSED DIAZ TO MOVE UP DATE AND CHANGE TARGET FROM CAMAGUEY TO HAVANA. PURPOSE OF LEAFLET DROPPING FLIGHT WAS TO PREPARE CUBAN PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOR OF 26 OF JULY ANTI CASTRO MOVEMENT AND TO EXPOSE THE CASTRO

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REC-8 10 NOV 2 1959

Mr. Belmont copies made

4/18/78 JS6/5/5

review at FBIHQ by

11/13/78 request

Availability of RT Charles
Wm. Norman (p96) given
ASG Yeager JPM 10/20/79

Classified by 2040 m2/10/77

Exempt from GDS, Category 2-3

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ANYTHING TO FURTHER EMBRASS US GOVERNMENT. STATES HE MADE ONLY ABOVE FLIGHT AND KNOWS NOTHING RE ALLEGED LEAFLETS BEING DROPPED SINCE. [FOLLOWING ARE INCIDENTS REPORTED BY MM 639-S TENDING TO SHOW DESIRE AND ATTEMPTS OF CASTRO GOVERNMENT TO DISCREDIT US THROUGH CASTRO GOVERNMENT ENGINEERED AND PLANNED INCIDENTS. UNDER NO CONDITIONS SHOULD ANY OF FOLLOWING BE RELEASED TO PRESS ~~NO CONDITIONS SHOULD ANY OF FOLLOWING BE RELEASED TO PRESS~~, AS TO DO SO WOULD MOST CERTAINLY PLACE INFORMANT'S LIFE IN IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY. IF FURNISHED TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES, IT SHOULD BE DONE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS ONLY. SEPTEMBER 18, 1959, INFORMANT WENT TO HAVANA CUBA AND WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY FERNANDO COBA, SGT. CUBAN POLICE. ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1959, COBA TOLD INFORMANT THAT CHIEF OF POLICE ~~ALMEIJERAS~~ GAVE HIM \$1,000 TO GET RAFAEL DEL PINO TO CUBA. IT BEING NOTED DEL PINO PUBLICALLY INDICATED HIMSELF TO BE AN ANTI CASTRO LEADER AT MIAMI AND SUBSEQUENTLY WAS SEIZED IN CUBA JULY 25, 1959, AFTER HIS AIRPLANE LANDED ON HIGHWAY OUTSIDE HAVANA. COBA TOLD DEL PINO WHILE IN MIAMI HE WAS LOOKING FOR A PILOT TO FLY TO CUBA AND RETURN WITH ALIEN TO MIAMI. DEL PINO VOLUNTEERED FOR THE JOB. TWO PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO KIDNAP DEL PINO BY VIOLENCE WHICH FAILED. ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1959, ALMEIJERAS TOLD INFORMANT HE WOULD LIKE LATTER TO SET UP AN EXPEDITION IN MIAMI CONSISTING OF 100 MEN, ARMS AND A BOAT, AND TO EFFECT A LANDING AT A PLACE DESIGNATED IN CUBA WHERE THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SEIZE THE INVADERS. ALMEIJERAS SAID HE WOULD BE SATISFIED IF HE COULD SEIZE 20 MEN. HE SAID HE WANTED TO EFFECT THE SAME TYPE OF INCIDENT THAT WAS CARRIED OFF BY WILLIAM ALEXANDER MORGAN ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 8, 1959. SAME DATE INFORMANT, ALMEIJERAS, COBA AND THREE BODYGUARDS WENT TO RAUL CASTRO'S HEADQUARTERS WHERE RAUL CASTRO CONFIRMED ALMEIJERAS PLAN FOR INFORMANT TO BRING AN INVASION GROUP INTO CUBA. RAUL SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THIS AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH INFORMANT TO USE COBA AS HIS HAVANA CONTACT, DESIGNATED A PRIVATE AIRPORT FOR USE BY INFORMANT TO ENTER AND DEPART CUBA AND INFORMANT WAS FURNISHED AN ADDRESS TO BE USED IN

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HAVANA AS A MAIL DROP. DURING THE SAME CONVERSATION ALMEIJERAS AND RAUL CASTRO EXHIBITED INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ASSASSINATION OR KIDNAPPING OF ESTEBAN VENTURA, FORMER LT. COL. CUBAN NATIONAL POLICE, IN EXILE MIAMI. SEPTEMBER 28, 1959. MM 639-S WAS IN CUBA AND MET WITH FERNANDO COBA AND EFIGENIO ALMEIJERAS CHIEF CUBAN NATIONAL POLICE. LATTER INDIVIDUALS IN CONVERSATION GAVE INDICATIONS THERE ARE CUBAN AGENTS IN MIAMI INVESTIGATING BATISTIANOS. ALMEIJERAS WAS CONSIDERING SENDING SOMEONE TO MIAMI EITHER ASSASSINATE OR KIDNAP ESTEBAN VENTURA. ALMEIJERAS UP TO THIS TIME HAD DENIED PERMISSION OF HIS PERSONAL BODYGUARDS TO CARRY OUT MISSION AGAINST VENTURA. ON OCTOBER 10, 1959 MM 639-S WAS IN HAVANA CUBA AND CONVERSED WITH EFIGENIO ALMEIJERAS WHO AGAIN DISCUSSED WITH INFORMANT HIS DESIRE THAT INFORMANT LEAD EXPEDITION FROM THE US TO CUBA AND AGAIN EXPRESSED A GREAT DESIRE TO SEIZE THIS EXPEDITION UPON ITS ARRIVAL IN CUBA. ON ABOUT OCTOBER 20, 1959, MM 639-S RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM FERNANDO COBA WHO WAS CALLING FROM CUBA. COBA HAD PREVIOUSLY CALLED THE GREEN MANSIONS MOTEL IN AN EFFORT TO CONTACT LYNN BAIR A MIAMI PILOT ENGAGED IN ALIEN SMUGGLING. BAIR HAD MOVED AND COBA COULD NOT LOCATE HIM. COBA TOLD INFORMANT TO OFFER PROPOSITION TO BAIR WHICH WOULD INVOLVE DELIVERING EVELIO ALPIZAR PEREZ TO CUBA. ALPIZAR FORMER CUBAN AIR FORCE PILOT, NOW ENGAGED IN ALIEN AND GUN SMUGGLING AND WORKING FOR ROLANDO MASFERRER, FORMER CUBAN SENATOR RESIDING IN MIAMI. THIS WOULD BE SAME SITUATION AS WHEN COBA DELIVERED DEL PINO. COBA OFFERED THIS ASSIGNMENT TO INFORMANT,

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[WHO DECLINED. ON EVENING OCTOBER 24 MM 639-S ADVISED HE HAD JUST RETURNED MIAMI FROM HAVANA, CUBA HAVING ARRIVED THERE OCTOBER 23 IN COMPANY WITH ALEX HERNANDEZ, CUBAN RESIDING MIAMI WITH WHOM INFORMANT ASSOCIATES. INFORMANT AND HERNANDEZ HAD CONFERENCE OCTOBER 23 WITH EFIGENIO ALMEIJEIRAS, CHIEF CUBAN NATIONAL POLICE, HAVANA, AND FRANCISCO COBA, SERGEANT IN CUBAN POLICE. ALMEIJEIRAS PROPOSED TO INFORMANT THAT HE APPROACH FROMER CUBAN SENATOR ROLANDO MASFERRER OR SOME OTHER ANTI CASTRO LEADER OF PROMINENCE IN MIAMI, AND OFFER TO PILOT A BOMB CARRYING PLANE FROM MIAMI TO CUBA FOR PURPOSE BOMBING HAVANA. THAT INFORMANT SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROCURE BOMBS WITH US GOVERNMENT MARKINGS AND UPON ARRIVAL IN CUBA MAKE LANDING ON STRIP 25 MILES WEST OF HAVANA WHERE BOMBS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO ALMEIJEIRAS. CUBAN GOVERNMENT WILL THEN MAKE PRESS RELEASE CLAIMING THAT MIAMI BASED PLANE DROPPED BOMBS OVER CUBA AND WILL OFFER AS PROOF ONE OR MORE BOMBS BEARING US MARKINGS WHICH THEY WILL CLAIM WERE DUDS. OTHER BOMBS WILL BE EXPLODED AND FRAGMENTS OF SAME OFFERED AS ADDITIONAL PROOF. ALMEIJEIRAS DISCLOSED THAT PURPOSE OF THIS HOAX IS FOR PROPAGANDA AGAINST US STATE DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO FORCE US ACTION AGAINST ANTI CASTRO EXILES RESIDING IN US. ALMEIJEIRAS DESIRED THIS PLAN TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 26 AND HE DESCRIBED IT AS BEING HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO CUBAN GOVERNMENT. ALMEIJEIRAS ALSO TOLD INFORMANT THAT SEVERAL HAND GRENADES WERE DROPPED BY LEAFLET DROPPING TWO ENGINED PLANE WHICH FLEW OVER HAVANA OCTOBER 21 LAST. HE SAID THAT ANOTHER PLANE FLEW OVER HAVANA SAME EVENING, BUT CUBAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT POSSESS DESCRIPTIVE DATA. INFORMANT STATED ALEX HERNANDEZ DISCLOSED HE WANTED NO PART IN ABOVE PLAN PROPOSED BY ALMEIJEIRAS.] PCI CHARLES WILLIAM HORMEL RECONTACTED STATES HE IS WILLING TO TESTIFY. HOWEVER, POINTED OUT HORMEL'S INFORMATION HEARSAY. HE STATES HE ARRIVED AT REMMERT WARNER AIRPORT, POMPANO, FLORIDA ABOUT 11:20 PM OCTOBER 21 LAST, WENT TO AIRPORT OFFICE WHERE HE PASSED TIME OF DAY WITH NIGHTWATCHMAN. WHILE TALKING, THEY HEARD NEWS BROADCAST OF AIR RAID AND DROPPING OF LEAFLETS OVER HAVANA. NIGHTWATCHMAN COMMENTED THAT B-25 AT

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AIRPORT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MATTER; THAT IT HAD LEFT ABOUT 5 PM AND RETURNED ABOUT 9 PM THAT DATE. HORMEL ASKED WHO HAD PILOTED PLANE AND NIGHTWATCHMAN TOLD HIM PEDRO DIAZ LANZ. THEREAFTER HORMEL WENT OUT TO PLANE AND TOOK DOWN SERIAL NUMBER. THEREAFTER CAME TO MIAMI AND FURNISHED INFO TO FBI. INFO BUREAU, HORMEL PRESENTLY UNDER INDICTMENT ON ATU CHARGE TRANSPORTING ARMS BY CAR. INVESTIGATION CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO IDENTIFY NIGHT-WATCHMAN ABOVE AT WHICH TIME HIS WILLINGNESS AND AVAILABILITY TO TESTIFY WILL BE DETERMINED. DR. ALCIDES DE LOS REYES UNAVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW NIGHT OCTOBER 24, BUT WILL BE CONTACTED OCTOBER 25 AND ASKED RE HIS AVAILABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY. RE ALLEGED DROPPING OF LEAFLETS OVER HAVANA REPORTED BY PRESS OCTOBER 24, DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY RECEIVED ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALL APPROXIMATELY 8:40 PM OCTOBER 24 FROM INDIVIDUAL ALLEGING PLANE BEARING LEAFLETS DESTINED FOR CUBA WOULD TAKE OFF FROM 8TH STREET AIRPORT AT 10 PM. AUTHORITIES GAVE COVERAGE TO TAMiami AIRPORT LOCATED SOUTHWEST 8TH STREET MIAMI WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. NO OTHER INFO DEVELOPED RE THIS. OCTOBER 24, 8 PM NEWS BROADCAST REPORTED LEARNING THROUGH SOURCES IN HAVANA, CUBA THAT CUBAN GOVERNMENT WAS ASKING FOR EXTRADITION OF PEDRO DIAZ LANZ TO CUBA. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AT AIRPORT, POMPAÑO BEACH TO VERIFY STATEMENTS OF LANZ ET AL SET OUT ABOVE. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED RESULTS OCTOBER 25, PM.

RECEIVED:

11:51 AM TELETYPE

11:53 AM CODING UNIT

BLH

cc--MR. BELMONT

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